

## Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Livestock Care Standards Advisory Council (Council) was held on September 16, 2015 in the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' second floor conference room located at 116 State Street, Montpelier VT. The following members were present:

Dr. Kristin Haas (KH); Dr. Ruth Blauwiekel (RB); Diane Bothfeld (DB); Les Pike (LP); Tracy Simon (TS); Royal Larocqe (RL); Joe Emenheiser (JE); Dr. Omar Oyarzabal (OO); Jane Clifford (JC);

The following public observers (affiliations) were present:

Joanne Bourbeau (Humane Society of the United States); Barry Londeree (Humane Society of the United States); JoAnn Nichols (Humane Society of Chittenden County)

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by DB at 9:05 AM.

Two new Council members were introduced. Dr. Omar Oyarzabal was appointed by the Governor to serve a three year term as an individual who is knowledgeable of food safety and food safety regulations. Joe Emenheiser was appointed by the Senate to a three year term as a producer of species other than bovidae; he is a sheep producer. All Council member terms were reviewed; KH will send an updated spreadsheet reflecting current status to Council members once multiple discrepancies are resolved with the appointing authorities.

The minutes from the April 2015 meeting were approved unanimously after a motion made by RB and seconded by LP.

The Council reviewed the final bilingual outreach materials created by contractor Erika Voogd pertaining to best practices for cattle and calf transport in Vermont. Materials include a master fact sheet, website document, palm card and tri-fold brochure. The following dissemination options were discussed: distribute at October VDPC meeting; share with dairy co-ops; send to licensed livestock dealers/haulers; share at the New England Dairy Promotion Council meeting; share with food animal veterinarians; ask VAAFM dairy farm inspectors to disseminate; notice in the St. Albans co-op newsletter; notice in Agriview; send to slaughter facility owners/managers; share with the Cattlemen's Beef Board; share with northeast state veterinarians; disseminate through NEASDA; share with Farm Viability program personnel; share with the Farm to Plate Network; share with NOFA; share with Rural Vermont; distribute at the Grazing Conference; distribute at the Farm Show; schedule an Across the Fence interview to raise awareness; share with legislative committee members; share with project sponsors.

KH will draft a press release and forward to Council members for concurrence prior to asking VAAFM communications contact to disseminate to media outlets. KH will investigate pricing to print 3,000 color/glossy/card stock palm cards, 3,000 color/glossy/card stock brochures, and 3,000 color fact sheets for dissemination. KH will confirm with contractor the origin and

copyright details of the photos in the outreach materials. There is \$250.00 left in the sponsorship account; KH will speak with Farm to Plate to try to identify other potential sources of funding to cover the cost of printing and mailing. The Council agreed that all versions of the outreach materials should be made available on the VAAFM website for use and subsequent dissemination by other interested parties. OO identified several typographical errors in the Spanish translated versions and offered to correct those.

The Council briefly discussed the topic of equine shelter given that there will likely be a bill proposed during the 2016 legislative session to amend the current statutory language pertaining to equine/livestock shelter requirements in Vermont. TS agreed to research this issue and report back to the Council the statutory language that other states have pertaining to livestock shelter. The Council decided to have additional discussion on this topic at the next meeting slated for November 2015 but also agreed to postpone more in depth discussion until a bill is actually proposed and the request for Council input is made by one of the legislative committees.

The Council agreed to discuss pertinent bills that were introduced during the 2015 session and are likely to re-emerge during the second year of the biennium during its November 2015 meeting.

A public comment period was held. Joanne Bourbeau stated that the shelter bill being contemplated for introduction would likely only pertain to equine shelter requirements and that stakeholders would be willing to work with the Council to try to identify compromise language. JoAnn Nichols stated that Bill Ward, zoning administrator for the city of Burlington, is considering the creation of an impoundment facility somewhere in the city. Barry Londeree stated that the Department of Libraries link on the Council website page, which directs viewers to the meeting schedule, is not working properly. KH will fix this.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristin M. Haas', written in a cursive style.

Kristin M. Haas, DVM